Vol. VIII. Numb: 61

THE OBSERVATOR.

On the Surrender of the Cittadel of Tournay, *and undertaking the Siege of* Mons, *with a Deſcription of the Place. The divine Juſtice remarkable, in puniſhing the* French *King by the ſame Methods he attempted to ruin* Great Britain. *The Danger of* French *Matches, Miſſes, and Friendſhips. The Way to have our Succeſs continu'd. On the Elector of* Hannover's *ſending a Detachment to* Upper Alſace. *The taking of* Annecy *by General* Thaun. *The attacking of* Roſes *by our Fleet; and the Proſpect of the Advantage we might have by ſending good Declarations into* France.

From Saturday, Auguſt 27. to Wednesday, Auguſt 31. 1709.

Country-m. WELL, Maſter, the good News is now come, that the *French* Garriſon of the Cittadel of *Tournay* ſurrender'd themſelves Priſoners of War on Thurſday laſt.

Obſ. I am heartily glad of it, *Roger*; for by that Means, the Allies are poſſeſs'd of one of the ſtrongeſt Fortifications the *French* had in the *Netherlands*, and will thereby be in a Condition to make Incurſions into the Frontiers of *France*, and make their Country contribute towards the Maintenance of the War, as the *French* have made ſome Part or other of the Dominions of the Allies do, ever ſince the War began.

Country-m. The *Flanders* Mails tell us farther, Maſter, that we have put 4000 Men into the Cittadel, and that the 1600 *French* who were left of the Garriſon, are not to ſerve againſt us, 'till they be exchang'd with an equal Number of our Officers, and Soldiers; and that our Army was to march on ſome Expedition the next Day. Nay, ſome ſay, the Prince of *Heſſe* has actually inveſted *Mons*, in order to beſiege it, and that the Elector of *Bavaria* has ſent away his beſt Moveables from thence, to *Namure*. Pray give me your Opinion of this News, Maſter.

Obſ. We muſt not be too quick in our Opinion of Things, *Roger*: The next Mails will let that Matter in a clearer Light. *Mons* is a Poſt of great Importance; and though the *French* Army be in no Condition to relieve it, we have no Reaſon to doubt, but the *French* King has taken all neceſſary Precautions, to enable the Garriſon to make a brave Defence, as he did that of *Tournay*; who, to give them their due, have behav'd themſelves like Subjects that deſerve a better Sovereign. Beſides, *Roger*, the Seaſon of the Year is very far advanc'd, to undertake ſuch a Siege as that of *Mons*; but if the Allies attempt it, we have Reaſon to think, that our great and wiſe Generals have good Grounds to hope for Succeſs.

Country-m. Pray, Maſter, give me a Deſcription of the Town.

Obſ. 'Tis the Capital of the Country of *Hainault*, *Roger*; reckon'd one of the beſt and ſtrongeſt Cities in the *Netherlands*, and of great Importance for its Situation, which is about 26 Miles S. W. from *Bruſſels*, 29 W. from *Namure*, and 22 S. E. from *Tournay*; ſtrong by Nature as well as Art, being ſituated near the Conflux of the ſmall Rivers *Hain* and *Tulle*; well fortify'd with a ſtone Wall, firm Ramparts, a treble broad Ditch, and defended by a ſtrong Caſtle. On one Side of the Town, the Ground is fenny, and may eaſily be laid under Water; on the other, there are two Hills within Cannon-ſhot; and on the Eaſt, there's a riſing Ground that cannot be laid under Water, but is fortify'd by ſeveral Redoubts, and large, deep Trenches; and the Town has 24 Baſtions, beſides Redoubts. By which, you may eaſily perceive, *Roger*, that if we were once Maſters of it, we ſhall take a terrible Thorn out of our own Side, and put it into the *French* King's Foot.

Country-m. Since the Place is ſo ſtrong, Maſter, and the Seaſon ſo far advanc'd, I think you are in the right to ſuſpend your Judgment of the Siege, 'till we hear farther of the March of our Army, and which Way they bend their Courſe: For my part, I wiſh they were at *Paris*.

Obſ. And ſo do I, *Roger*; but there are a great many ſtrong Places ſtill, in their Way, before they can march into *France* with Safety, beſides the *French* Lines, that muſt be forc'd, and their Army diſlodg'd; and as I told you before, the Country, thro' which they muſt march, is waſted and impoveriſh'd; the Proviſions all carry'd into Places of Strength; and we may be ſure the *French* will deſtroy all the Corn and Forage in the open Country, rather than leave it to ſubſiſt our Army. So, that except we had a ſufficient Place of Arms on the Coaſt, from whence our Troops could be ſupply'd with Neceſſaries by our Fleet, it might prove ſuch another March, as that of the King of *Sweden* into the *Ukrain*; but Thanks to Heaven *Roger*, we are under no Neceſſity to run ſuch a Riſk; 'tis *France* which is now reduc'd to the unhappy Neceſſity of venturing upon deſperate Actions; but as ſhe wants both Courage and Strength, ſhe is not ſo fooliſh as to attempt them; therefore, ſhe takes the Part to intrench her Armies, and to defend her Frontiers, on purpoſe to gain Time, and to diſcipline her new levy'd Men, in order to revive their natural Courage and Fire, which ſeems, in a great Meaſure, to be extinguiſh'd, and ſcarce capable of being reſtor'd, except Heaven, for the Sins of the Confederates, ſend them another *Joan* of *Arc*, the Maid of *Orleance*, as it did in the Reign of our *Henry* the VIth and their *Charles* the VIIth.

Country-m. I am ſorry, Maſter, that we have Reaſon to ſay, for our part, we deſerve ſuch a Puniſhment for our lewd Maids and Women that have encreas'd ſo prodigiouſly among us, ſince the Reign of King *Charles* the IId. and whoſe impure Flames have been ſo much nouriſh'd by our vicious Plays, and Play-houſes; but as God has put it into her Majeſty's Heart, to ſuſpend thoſe Schools of Wickedneſs, which, I hope, will be attended by a total Suppreſſion, or at leaſt, a thorough Reformation of 'em, I hope there are Bleſſings ſtill in ſtore for us: And that the Stop, which her Majeſty's Proclamations, the Zeal of ſome good Juſtices of the Peace, and the heroical Endeavours of the worthy Societies for Reformation, have put to *Sodom*'s Crimes among us, will prevent *Sodom*'s Judgments, if we don't ſlacken our Hands, but go on with a becoming Zeal againſt Swearing, Curſing, Drunkenneſs, Sabbath-breaking, Uncleanneſs, ridiculing of Religion, and other open Impieties.

Obſ. You ſay very well, *Roger*; while neighbouring Countries labour under the Sword, Famine, and Peſtilence, 'tis our Duty to avoid thoſe Sins, and to proſecute a national Reformation, in order to ward off thoſe Judgments, againſt which, tho' political Precautions, ſuch as her Majeſty's Orders ſuffer no Veſſels from the *Baltick*, to come any higher

than

than the *Buoy of the Nore*, and that none be ſuffer'd to go or come from on Board them, for a certain Time, be good and neceſſary to prevent 'em, our beſt Security is, to reform our Manners, and make ſerious Application to Heaven.

Country-m. I cannot forbear, Maſter, to obſerve how the divine Juſtice has retaliated the *French* King; which, inſtead of ſending him a *Joan* of *Arc* to retieve his deſperate Affairs, has ſent a Madam *Maintenon* and her Minions, to haſten his Ruin, and ſow Diviſions in his Court. I think, Maſter, they may read their Sin in their Puniſhment. We know the Time when they ſent *French* Ladies and Miſſes to debauch our Court and Nation, to carry on the Intereſt of Tyranny and Popery, and to ſow Diviſions among us, and now Heaven has brought it Home to themſelves.

Obſ. French Matches, *French* Miſſes, and *French* Agents, have, for a long Time, been fatal to moſt Countries of *Europe*, *Roger*; for ſince their Court has been intent upon raiſing themſelves to ſuch a Grandeur, and abſolute Power, as is inconſiſtent with the Ends for which God appointed Government, they have ſtuck at nothing, but have openly broke thro' all the Laws of God and Man, and even violated thoſe of Hoſpitality. We have had too pregnant Proofs of this among our ſelves, and this Nation will ever have Reaſon to remember with Sorrow, that a *French* Lady and her Prieſts in Conjunction with our own High-flyers, ſow'd and cultivated the Seeds of all thoſe Diſorders among us, which brought on the Civil War, that ruin'd the King, the Church, and the State; and laid the Foundations of thoſe unhappy Diviſions which ſtill reign among us, and are kept up with ſo much Heat, by the Apoſtles and Diſciples of Paſſive-Obedience. This puts me in mind, *Roger*, of what the *Flemiſh* Hiſtorians ſay of *Lewis* the XIth of *France*; who, when the Dauphin retir'd with his Dauphineſs, upon a Diſguſt from his Father's Court, to that of the Duke of *Burgundy*, whither they brought along with them the Devils of Diſcord, Sedition, and Intrigue, which ruin'd that noble Family, who gave them ſuch generous Entertainment, and verify'd what the Dauphin's Father foretold the generous Duke of *Burgundy*, viz. That the Dauphin would reward his Family, as *Æſop*'s Snake did his Country-man, who carrying it into his Houſe, and laying it before the Fire, when benumm'd with Cold, as ſoon as it recover'd, it ſtung him to Death.

Country-m. I hope that will be a Caution, Maſter, to ſuch People as may plead for what they call Moderation, and a generous Compaſſion to the *French* King in his preſent Circumſtances, when we come to treat. But I have more good News for you, Maſter; a Detachment from the Elector of *Hannover* has enter'd *Upper Alſace*, where no Enemy has been ſeen for many Years; which forces the *French* Subjects to retire with their beſt Effects to Places of Strength; and they are afraid they ſhall not be able to hinder General *Mercy*'s entering the *Franche Compte*. The Confederates have alſo taken the *French* Garriſon in the Caſtle of *Annecy* in *Savoy*, Priſoners of War, and threaten to lay *Dauphine* under Contribution, where they have a Proſpect of being join'd by the People of the Country, who are grown weary of their Oppreſſions; and we are alſo inform'd, that the Confederate Fleet is before *Roſes*, and threatens to bombard it.

Obſ. I am mighty glad of all that, *Roger*: The *French* King's mortifying News, ſeems like *Job*'s Meſſengers, to come very faſt upon him one after another. Had the Elector of *Hannover* been duly ſupported, we have no Reaſon to doubt he would have made an Impreſſion upon *France* long ere now; but better late, than never. Had he been as nearly related to ſuch a Man as M. *Chamillart*, as ſome Body elſe, he would neither have wanted Men nor Money; and 'tis great Pity he ſhould, ſince he knows how to make ſo good a Uſe of both. May he go on and proſper, *Roger*: His Succeſs is our own. We are oblig'd to pray for that Family by publick Authority, Thanks to Heaven and her Majeſty for it. Some People have done all they can to raiſe Clouds upon the riſing Sun; but if our Sins don't prevent it, Providence ſeems to be clearing them up, and all Things conſpire to bring down the Tyranny of *France*; their haughty *Monarch* is attack'd on all Sides; his *Egypt* is deſtroy'd, tho' he will not know it. His Enemies prevail without, and he has the Plagues of God upon him within. His Kingdom is full of combuſtible Matter; ſo that nothing ſeems to be wanting to ſet all in a Flame, but putting Fire to the Train, puſhing on the War with Vigor, and ſending brisk Declarations among 'em.

Country-m. What Sort of Declarations, Maſter? I want to hear it, you talk ſo often of that Subject.

Obſ. You and I have frequently talk'd more than ſome People think comes to our Share, *Roger*: But my Meaning is, in a few Words, that there ſhould be Declarations ſent among his Nobles, that they ſhall be reſtor'd to their former Governments in their reſpective Provinces, without being over-aw'd, controul'd, and eaten out of their Authority by their Monarchs Intendants; which, if we may believe M. *Vaſor*, in his Hiſtory of *Lewis* XIIIth, is a Grievance they would gladly have remov'd, becauſe it would free them from their ſlaviſh Dependance on the Court; and if the like were ſpread among his inferior Subjects, that they ſhould be eas'd of their heavy Taxes, and none laid upon them for Time to come, but by Conſent of the States; that the Edict of *Nantz*, ſhould be reſtor'd, and all their Grievances redreſs'd, we have no Reaſon to doubt, but ſuch Declarations would have happy Effects, now that their *Nimrod* is defeated every where Abroad, and become ſo contemptible at Home.

Advertiſements.

☞ Love without Affectation, in five Letters from a Portugueſe Nun, to a French Cavalier. Done into Engliſh Verſe from the neweſt Edition lately printed at Paris. To which is added, a prefatory Diſcourſe of the Nature and Uſe of ſuch Epiſtles in general, with the Excellency of theſe in particular; the Time when they were written, the Reaſons why, the true Names and Circumſtances of the Perſons concern'd in them, and undeniable Proofs given of the pretended Anſwers to them (which go under the Name of the Chevalier Del) being ſpurious. Never extant before, and communicated to the Tranſlator in Verſe by unqueſtionable Authorities. Sold by J. Woodward in Threadneedle-ſtreet, and J. Morphew near Stationers-hall. Price 1 s.

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